

A COMPLETE WESTERN NOVELETTE THE NIGHT RIDERS



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What can possibly save Gabby from a slow and horrible death by poison? Read chapter two of THE MIGHT RIDERS!



WALLET















3 VERMONT IS KNOWN AS THE GREEN MOUNTAIN STATE.

TRUE PALSE

FALSE



ANSWERS:

PALSE

TITRUE IT'S 1,286 FEET BOLOW SEA WHOM HE KNOCKED OUT FOR THE LEVEL S. TRUE S. TRUE AT THE LEVEL STATE OF THE SEALOW SEA





WHEN Buck Desmond rode into the town of Valley Flats, he realized, at once, that a ruckus had been in the making. Looking down the main street, the rambling cowhand awas smashed windows and with glass still littering the board sidewalks. There were fresh bullet marks in the stucco sides of buildings, and the town was quiet! Too quiet.

"Hmm!" Buck mused, as he reined in his bay horse. "Looks like there's been a first-class riot in Valley Flats! Wonder how come—"

The lean, tanned cowboy's words choked off, as he saw what was happening in an alleyway down the street. Several gents were gathered in a menacing semi-circle around a levi-clad young rider. They were husky, heavily-armed hombres, with the tied-down guns and batwing chaps affected by men who did not make their living out on the range! Threateningly, they were closing in on the youth!

"Stand back," he cried, suddenly. "Come closer and I'll shoot! Hear me, Rego?"

"Now, now, Tad!" soothed one of the men in an oily, hoarse woice, "We don't mean no—"
But, even as Rego spoke, his hand whipped down toward his gun! So speedy was his treacherous move that it did not seem that any other human could beat him to the trigger! But, while his Colt was still blurring up, another gun roared! It spoke from behind the group of men, lancing across Rego's wrist. Half-screaming in surprised pain, the big man dropped his gun.

In a single motion, Rego and his comrades whirled!

Before them, they saw Buck Desmond, his lean hand holding a still-smoking Colt. Its barrel moved in a slow arc, back and forth . . . "That was just one bullet," the rambling cowhand said. "They got five more in this old cannon, and it's got a filed-down hammer. Shoots fast! So clear out, all of you, 'cept that young feller there! Vampose!"

Grimly, silently, the gunmen backed away, like scared coyotes. Soon they were out of

sight, in the alleys and back saloons of Valley Flats. Then Buck turned to the boy who waited at his side.

"What was that ruckus all about?" he asked.
"You were roasting on a mighty hot spit, son!"

The boy flushed.
"Too hot," he grinned. "But I reckon my dad can tell you more about this than I can.
He's Elijah Summers, Mayor of Valley Flats.

He's Elijan Summers, Mayor of Valley Flats, and I reckon he'd sure appreciate a chance to talk to you, stranger!"

Ten minutes later, Buck and young Tad Summers were in the law office of white-haired Flijah Summers Carbarded should be them used.

mers were in the law office of white-haired Elijah Summers. Gathered about them were several other men, all businessmen and ranchers from the Valley Flats vicinity. Their faces were troubled, and they were looking to Buc-Desmond for help.

"Desmond," the Mayor said, "we sure ware to thank you for stepping in when those coyotes were about to gun down my boy! Cliff Rego and his gang are a salty bunch, all right"

"Reckon so," Buck replied. "But what's their game? How come they've been making

"It's a long story, mister," Elijah Summers replied. "For years, we folks in Valley Flats have been feuding with the folks in Morgan City, about fifty miles away. Leastways, they we been feuding with us! The situation came to a head recently, when folks in the state dieded to run a big state fair. They've narraewed down the choice for the location of the fair to either Valley Flats or Morgan City! A committee of wealthy ranchers is going to visit valley Flats tomorrow, to decide whether this should be chosen as the spot for the annual "Com".

Buck nodded, "I see," he said, "And you think that the Morgan City people are trying to make trouble——"

"Think!" Elijah Summers exclaimed. "I know! They've hired a big bunch of drifters and no-goods, gunslicks all! They aim to keep stirring up trouble in town, so that it will ap-

pear that we have no law and order in Valley Flats, and the committee will decide not to hold the fair here! They've already wounded the sheriff, and I reckon they would have killed my boy today!"

Buck clenched his fist.

"Then the problem," he mused, "is to get a loop on these critters and clear them out of town—pronto!"

The faces around the rambling cowhand nodded as one. But they all reflected a single question. "How?"

Buck stood up. "I've got an idea, Summers," he said. "As mayor, you can call a big town meeting. Do that tonight! I reckon you've got a big canvas tent you can hold it under. Make sure everyone knows about it, including Rego's thugs!"

"Including those slicks? But they'll all come. They'll try to break it up!"

They'll try to break it up!"

"I know," grinned Buck. "And we'll be waiting for them!"

That night, as dusk closed over Valley Flats, a huge canvas tent, souvenir of a traveling show that had once folded in town, was put up, at the edge of the main street. Buck Desmond-supervised the erection of the tent, and, as the canvas rose, he whispered cautious instructions to the men who were helping him.

Finally, the tent was filled with waiting townspeople, sitting on rough-hewn benches. In one corner, at the far end, sat Cliff Rego and his thugs. Scowling and mean, they waited for an opportunity to break up the meeting and provoke a fight that would last through the night! If their plan worked, the visiting committee could not fail to see that Valley Flats was no place to hold a state fair!

Now Mayor Elijah Summers rose to speak.
"Friends," he said, "we're here tonight because of this committee meeting tomorrow!
We want to make sure that——"

"BOOOO!" "EEE-YIPPPEE!" "Shut up,

A chorus of angry shouts and cat-calls suddenly came from the corner of the tent where Rego's gang hulked. Summers tried to continue with his talk, but again the thugs interrupted him! Buck Desmond tensed when he saw that they were starting to rise—that they were going to break up the meeting. Quickly, he raised his hand in a signal. Several men were waiting at the tent poles and guy wires. Their eyes were on him!

"Now," Buck shouted, sweeping his arm down, "Now! Drop the tent!"

His aides quickly pulled loose the supports of the tent, in the section where the Rego gang had been sitting. As the guy wires and poles collapsed, the heavy canvas slumped down like an enveloping cloud! Within a few moments, it had imprisoned the hoodulms under its weighty folds! And only the gunmen were trapped, for the tent had been cleverly rigged to fall on them alone!

As Rego and his men struggled desperately to free themselves from the canvas that pinned them to the ground, Buck quickly stepped to their side, his gun drawn. "Rego! Rego, listen!" he shouted. "We've got our guns trained on you! You can't get out! You can't see to shoot at us, but we can finish you off . . . if we want to!"

There was silence for a moment. Then, from under the canvas—"All right, Desmond! You've got us. So what?"

"So this," Buck ordered. "Slide your guns out to us, under the edge of canvas. When they're all out, we'll lift the canvas flap and let you come out, one at a time. Now! Start passing out your guns!"

N HOUR later, the townspeople of Valley Flats stood by, grinning, as the barred does not be a created and the securely into place. Within the railroad car, they could see the angry faces of the toughs who had been terrorizing their town! Disarmed and helpless, they were being sent on a ride!

"Where do you think we ought to send them, Buck?" asked Elijah Summers. "Back to Morgan City?"

"Reckon not!" Buck Desmond replied.
"They'd get guns and be back here pronto.
We'd best send them to the U, S. Marshal at
San Bexar. He'll figure out the best thing to
do with them. And now let's start cleaning up
the town again! That swate fair committee'll
be coming in tomorrow, and we'll want things
to look just right for them!"

THE END

PISTOL PACKING PATTIE

LUMBERS ALONG!





















CARRY HAYES WESTERN















































CARRY HAYES WESTERN

























JOON.

I PON'T UNDERSTAND, PLUMB
GABBY: ALL THEY TOOK PEE-COOLYAR.
WERE CANDLES AND I RECKON
HAMPS: IMBER'S NOT IPPPY AND NE
A LIGHT LEFT! NOT TIPPY AND NE
NTO ETTER RIDE







-like a candle? Read chapter THREE of THE NIGHT RIDERS!





IF THAT CROOK EVER GETS ELECTED, IT'LL BE THE WORST THING THAT EVER HAPPENED TUH THIS TOWN! I BUT I RECKON THE FOLKS ARE TOO SMART TUH FOLKS ARE TOO SMART TUH FOLKS ARE



ME YORE MAYOR,
ME YORK FER HE'LL
YUH DAY AND WORK DAY
NIGHT!
BUT ONLY
TRYING



FOLKS, A VOTE FER ME IS A VOTE FER AN HONEST MAN!

HORSEFEATHERS!









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GREETINGS, FRIEND! IT APPEARS WE HAVE BOTH ROPED OUR PRIZE AT THE SAME MOMENT. MY NAME IS YOUNG FALCON .

BIG TREE --- AND THE STALLION IS

BIG TREE, EH ? IT IS PLAIN TO SEE WHY BUT THE STALLION IS AS MUCH MINE AS





THE ONLY FAIR THING IS FOR US THE ONLY FAIR THING IS FOR US
TO BOTH PULL A BLADE OF GRASS
AND LET FATE OECIDE THE LUCKY
ONE. HE WHOSE BLADE IS
LONGEST WIND THE STALLION!



NO! I AM TAKING THE STALLION! HE IS MINE !

BITT JUST THEN, OTHER RIDERS APPEAR, AND ---

STAY YOUR TONGUE, BIG TREE. I HAVE SEEN WHAT HAS RIDGE ABOVE .



AM AHU, CHIEF OF THE ONATAS! MY BRAVES AND I HAVE BEEN ROUNDING UP NEW STEEDS FOR OUR CORRAL! OFTEN HAVE I HEARD OF



GREAT CHIEF EVERYONE KNOWS THE HIGH REPUTATION OF THE ONATAS!



AGH!



















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